

Dominion Robbed of Thousands

An Ottawa dispatch of June 24 said: The Evening Ottawa Free Press contains the following detailed story of frauds which have been unearthed in the government printing bureau:

For alleged complicity in extensive frauds at the government printing bureau which have been discovered through the personal investigation of Sir Charles Murphy, secretary of state, F. S. Gouldthrite, who for 20 years has been superintendent of stationery at the bureau, is wanted by the Dominion police. He has not been in the city for several days and is believed to be out of the country. The following statement was handed out to the press this morning by the under-secretary of state, but Hon. Mr. Murphy refused absolutely to give any further information, and would neither admit nor deny that Mr. Gouldthrite was the man classed as a fugitive from justice.

The Statement

"One fugitive from justice, one official dismissed, four employees dismissed, one official suspended." The foregoing is the result to date of the investigation which Hon. Charles Murphy has been conducting for the past twelve months into the affairs of the government printing bureau, and which he is now bringing to a close. Shortly after assuming office, the secretary of state became aware of practices and abuses that had impaired the efficiency of the bureau for several years and applied himself to the task of getting at the root of the trouble and meting out punishment to the offenders. His enquiries made a trip to the United States necessary after the close of the recent session of parliament, and since his return he has been applying information gleaned in various cities to individual cases.

In addition he has investigated the international management of the bureau and this also has brought individuals under the ban. The net result to date is as above stated.

Won't Give Details

Pressed for some details Mr. Murphy said it was his duty to report the final result of his investigation to the governor-general in council, and that before doing so he could not make any statement for publication.

The frauds that were discovered mainly concern the stationery department. Mr. Gouldthrite was in charge of that department, and the purchase of all paper and stationery supplies was therefore under his direct supervision. His purchases totalled hundreds of thousands of dollars in the course of a year. It is a curious fact that one of the frauds was connected with a stationery article that was introduced some years ago to prevent fraud in all departments. As a result of the Martineau defalcations an order was passed that all government cheques should be printed on a special safety paper. This paper was bought from a New York firm for a while, then the order was subsequently transferred to another New York firm.

It has been discovered that this firm has been supplying a fictitious safety paper worth very considerably less than the amount that Mr. Gouldthrite has been

authorizing payment for. Mr. Murphy made a special trip to New York in connection with this matter. Fortunately, in this case the government will suffer no loss, owing to the fact that it happens that the same firm has already furnished to the bureau a large quantity of other supplies which have not yet been paid for. These payments will now be withheld until there has been a general adjustment.

Other Frauds

It is understood that a number of similar frauds have been discovered in the stationery department. Orders which formerly used to go to reliable firms in the United States have been switched to others whose reputation is less high.

Investigation by Hon. Mr. Murphy has extended over ten months, and it is not yet nearly completed. One of the troubles has been to discover what was the real market price of the commodities purchased by the bureau. The price varies in different cities and sometimes the quality of the goods can only be determined by technicalities.

In order to assist him in making this investigation, Mr. Murphy secured the services of the purchasing agents of several large corporations, the volume of whose business approached that of the government. The reports of these experts will also be used in connection with the general scheme of reorganization, which will surely follow the discovery of the irregularities of the bureau. There are evidences that some of the frauds date back for twenty years, and in that time they have been brought to such a state of perfection that it was only by minute investigation and persistent enquiry that the method of operation would be detected. Mr. Gouldthrite was in his office at the bureau on Monday last, the day on which Mr. Murphy turned in his investigations to that institution itself. It is understood that he has not been seen in Ottawa since.

Is Well Known

Mr. Gouldthrite is well known in the capital, and was very popular among a large circle of acquaintances. Some five years ago he erected a house on Manor Road, Rockville, to which, within the last year, he has made several improvements. He has a wife and one child. Location of Mr. Gouldthrite's whereabouts has been entrusted to Col. Sherwood, of the Dominion police.

No one feels more keenly than Mr. Murphy the discovery of the frauds in Mr. Gouldthrite's department. "We were boys together," said the minister. In the absence of any official information it is assumed that the frauds consisted largely in double billing, and that the firms worked in collusion with men in the bureau. Of the safety paper, which is said to be fictitious, there is still a large quantity in stock at the bureau. Mr. Murphy's investigations have not stopped with the stationery department, and it is understood that certain employees in the accounting branch have been suspended for irregularities in preparation of the costs of work done in the bureau.

C. H. Parmelee, who was appointed King's printer a little over a year ago, has been thunderstruck at the revelations. The frauds have been so carefully worked out as to make detection almost impossible. They could only be discovered by following up the ramifications, as Mr. Murphy has done in the United States.

ROBBERY COSTS LIVES

Thomas Landgren, a wealthy shoe manufacturer killed, and Policeman Thomas H. Carroll dying, two bandits dead, and one in custody sums up the most daring robbery in the history of New England, which occurred Saturday morning at Lynn, Mass., forty feet from Landgren's factory. He was robbed of a satchel holding between four and five thousand dollars. Landgren and Carroll had just left the bank when a bandit opened fire and shot each in the head. The others grabbed the satchel and the three fled. A crowd of hundreds and police pursued, exchanging shots with the robbers. Two were shot down and for a time the third with the money escaped. Fearing death he was captured after a terrific struggle. The money was recovered.

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